Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 05547 021513Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-20 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
EUR-12 OES-09 SPTA-02 /125 W
----------048290 031005Z /13-11
R 021509Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8246

UNCLAS PANAMA 05547

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EEWT, PN, XH, UR
SUBJECT: PANAMA INITIATES COMMERCIAL OFFENSIVE TO
INCREASE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

1. AN ARTICLE APPEARING ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE 29
JULY EDITION OF "MATUTINO," STATES THAT PANAMA HAS
INITIATED A COMMERCIAL OFFENSIVE TO INCREASE ITS
ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND
PLANS TO SEND A COMMERCIAL MISSION TO THE COUNTRIES
OF EASTERN EUROPE IN THE LATTER HALF OF AUGUST.
IN PREPARATION FOR SUCH A MISSION, THE REGIONAL
DIRECTOR FOR RELATIONS BETWEEN PANAMA AND THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES OF EASTERN EUROPE, PEDRO BRIN
MARTINEZ, HELD A WORKING LUNCH ON 28 JULY AT THE
UNITED NATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE USSR,
THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, HUNGARY, POLAND,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, RUMANIA AND YUGOSLAVIA.

2. DURING THE LUNCH, BRIN MARTINEZ EMPHASIZED
THAT THE GOP IS PLANNING AS ONE OF THE PRIORITY
OBJECTIVES OF ITS FOREIGN POLICY, "THE CONSECRATION
OF THE UNIVERSALIZATION OF THE NEUTRAL MANAGEMENT"
OF THE CANAL. HE FURTHER STATED THAT THE GOP IS
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PAGE 02 PANAMA 05547 021513Z

CONVINCED THAT POLITICAL INDEPENDENCE DEPENDS
FUNDAMENTALLY ON ECONOMIC INDEPENDENCE, AND THERE-
FORE PLANS TO SEND A COMMERCIAL MISSION TO THE
EASTERN BLOC COUNTRIES. HE DECLARED THAT THE GOP
NOT ONLY WANTS TO INCREASE ITS EXPORTS TO THE
SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, BUT ALSO INTENSIFY OTHER
MORE COMPLEX RELATIONS, SUCH AS INDUSTRIAL,

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

SCIENTIFIC. AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION.

3. BRIN MARTINEZ ADDED THAT AFTER THE TORRIJOS-CARTER TREATIES ENTER INTO EFFECT, PANAMA WILL BE IN CONDITION TO DEVELOP THE INTEROCEANIC WATERWAY AS ONE OF ITS PRINCIPAL NATIONAL RESOURCES. IN THIS SAME VEIN, HE POINTED OUT THAT PANAMA INTENDS TO CONVERT ITSELF INTO A GREAT CENTER OF WORLD COMMERCE, WITH THE COLON FREE ZONE AS A CENTER FOR THE REDISTRIBUTION OF MERCHANDISE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD. WITH THE NEW TREATIES, PANAMA REGAINED THE USE OF THE PORTS OF CRISTOBAL AND BALBOA THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY UNDER U.S. CONTROL. THE PANAMANIAN COMMERCIAL MISSION WILL OFFER THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, AND ESPECIALLY THE USSR, WHICH HAS AN IMPORTANT MERCHANT FLEET, SITES IN THE COLON FREE ZONE FROM WHICH THEY CAN DISTRIBUTE THEIR MERCHANDISE THROUGHOUT CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE COUNTRIES OF THE ORIENT. JORDEN

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Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
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Disposition Action: n/a
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
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Film Number: D780317-1336
Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808107/aaaadlux.tel
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Review Event:
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EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
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